



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

NOTICE OF MEETING

Disability and Communication Access Board

Legislative Committee Meeting

March 16, 2026
12:15 p.m.

The public is welcome to participate as follows:

Physical Meeting Location

Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B
Honolulu, HI 96813

Participate Virtually via Zoom

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87918393657> and enter Meeting ID: 879 1839 3657

To join by phone

Dial 1 669 900 6833 and enter Meeting ID: 879 1839 3657

One tap mobile: +16694449171,,87918393657# US

HOW TO TESTIFY:

Written testimony – There is no deadline for submission of testimony, however, to ensure the public as well as Committee members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. one business day prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

- **To Submit by Email:** Email the Legislative Committee at dcab@doh.hawaii.gov. Please include TESTIMONY in the subject line.

- **To Submit by U.S. Postal Mail or Hand-Delivery:**

Attention: Legislative Committee – Testimony
Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

- **To Submit via facsimile:** (808) 586-8129

Oral testimony will be accepted via the remote testimony link or in-person at 1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during the Committee meetings shall be limited to three (3) minutes per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a reasonable amount of additional time shall be afforded to persons with a communication disability to present testimony or comments, if needed. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the DCAB office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Committee meeting agendas.

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Committee meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Committee deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Committee shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Committee.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

Review Remote Meeting Procedures

- This meeting is being recorded.
- A quorum of Committee members is required to be visible on screen.
- If quorum is not achieved at the beginning of the meeting, the meeting will be cancelled within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time and updates will be made to any posted notices or calendars accordingly.
- If a Committee member leaves the meeting permanently at any time, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the meeting will adjourn at that time.
- If a Committee member leaves the meeting temporarily, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the Chair shall call a recess. If the Committee member does not return within ten (10) minutes, the meeting will be adjourned.
- Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
- Identify yourself before speaking however public testifiers may use an alias to maintain anonymity.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

IV. Bills and Resolutions

A. Building Code, Design, and Facility Access

Reso XX-XX - Requesting the Hawaii State Department of Health to Study Accessibility Barriers in Multi-Family Facilities Governed by Homeowners' Associations and not Covered by the Fair Housing Act Design Regulations, Evaluate Whether Statutory Clarification is Warranted, and Assess the Feasibility of a State Matching Assistance Fund to Support Access Modifications.

Justification: Enables those who develop a disability to afford home modifications.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

V. Update on Number of Bills Committee took a position on and the number of testimonies submitted by staff.

VI. Review of Bills and Resolutions Already Voted On.

Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities Related Bills

[House Bill 1577 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to 911 Services. Requires the 911 Board to establish a Statewide Emergency Safety Profile System Pilot Program and convene a working group. Requires report to the Legislature. Repeals on 6/30/2031. Effective 7/1/300.

Justification: Reduces miscommunication between law enforcement and persons with a disability.

Committee Position: Support Intent.

[House Bill 1668 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Medicaid. Requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities who are between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years when determining eligibility for Medicaid. Takes effect upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Justification: Enables those receiving Medicaid to earn income without risking loss of benefits.

Committee Position: Support.

[House Bill 1700 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Housing. Includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits. Repeals 6/30/2031. Effective 7/1/3000.

Justification: Increases supply of accessible housing.

Committee Position: Support.

[House Bill 1993 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2851 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Deaf Individuals. Authorizes deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as

being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information.

Justification: Improves interactions between law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing drivers.

Committee Position: Support.

[House Bill 2217 House Draft 2](#) – Relating to Identification. Allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card. Requires the Department of Transportation to establish public outreach efforts and coordinate with state and county law enforcement agencies regarding the disability notation. Effective 7/1/3000.

Justification: Reduces miscommunication between law enforcement and persons with a disability.

Committee Position: Support Intent.

[House Bill 1731 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2340 Senate Draft 2](#) – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes. Clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific medicaid waiver program.

Justification: Enables those receiving Medicaid to be cared for in a licensed community care foster family home.

Committee Position: Support.

[Senate Bill 2268 Senate Draft 2](#) – Relating to Equity. Requires all places of public accommodation and public entity construction projects planned and designed after 7/31/2027 to provide at least one universal changing accommodation within the building in a public restroom, with certain exceptions. Makes conforming amendments to sections 489-6, 489-7.5, and 489-8, HRS, to prevent conflicts among the provisions. Effective 1/1/2525.

Justification: Will result over time a statewide network of changing stations.

Committee Position: Support.

[Senate Bill 2852 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Civil Rights. Establishes it as an unlawful discriminatory practice for a place of public accommodation to deny a person with a disability full and equal enjoyment of information related to their services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations by requiring use of information and communication technology that is not accessible to the person. Beginning 7/1/2027, requires each place of public accommodation with 16 or more employees to ensure that all information and communication technology used is accessible to persons with disabilities. Beginning 7/1/2028, requires all places of public accommodations to each ensure that all information and

communication technology used is accessible to persons with disabilities.
Establishes exceptions. Effective 1/30/2050.

Justification: Ensures digital accessibility.
Committee Position: Support.

Disability and Communication Access Board Program Related Bills

[House Bill 1995/Senate Bill 2850](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Provides that people who are blind or deaf are eligible to apply for and receive a disabled paid parking permit.

Justification: Will exacerbate the difficulty current permittees have in finding an available accessible space.
Committee Position: Oppose.

[House Bill 2488 House Draft 2](#) – Relating to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to study the health care communication needs of patients who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind. Requires a report to the Legislature 20 days prior to the 2027 Regular Session.

Justification: Will lead to better healthcare access for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents.
Committee Position: Support.

[House Bill 2489 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2412 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to the University of Hawaii. Appropriates moneys to establish a bachelor's degree program in American Sign Language interpretation at the University of Hawai'i Manoa campus with a multi-year plan to include a master's degree program for interpreter training.

Justification: Will increase the pool of American Sign Language interpreters.
Committee Position: Support.

[Senate Bill 2366](#) – Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Amends the fee exemption period for individuals possessing a disabled paid parking exemption permit from the first 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer, to the first 4.5 hours.

Justification: Will allow disabled paid parking exemption permit (DPPEP) users adequate time to return to their parked vehicle.
Committee Position: Support.

[House Bill 2375 House Draft 2](#) – Relating to Towing Practices. Establishes a Uniform Towing Practices for Public Parking Facilities Working Group within the Department of Transportation to examine existing state and county laws, ordinances, rules, and administrative practices relating to towing from public

parking facilities and develop recommendations for uniform standards applicable to towing from state and county parking facilities. Requires a report to the Legislature.

Justification: DCAB often receives inquiries about accessible parking at State and County facilities and may want to be a member of this group. The original version would have prohibited towing vehicles at State parks displaying a valid disability parking permit.

Committee Position: Support intent.

[House Bill 2442 House Draft 2](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Beginning 7/1/27, increases the number of required accessible and van accessible parking spaces in parking lots with more than twenty-five parking spaces that are covered by title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Justification: Increases the number of accessible and van accessible spaces at ADA Titles II and III entities.

Committee Position: Support.

Transportation and Mobility

[House Bill 2000 House Draft 1/Senate Bill 2847](#) – Relating to the Right to Repair. Establishes a right to repair for wheelchairs.

Justification: Secures an important right for people with mobility disabilities.

Committee Position: Support.

[Senate Bill 2695 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Pedestrian Safety. Clarifies a driver's obligations at crosswalks. Requires drivers to stop and remain stopped for pedestrians in crosswalks. Strengthens penalties for traffic violations, particularly in school zones. Creates additional criminal penalties when pedestrians suffer bodily injury. Provides heightened protections for blind and visually impaired pedestrians.

Justification: Increases safety for blind and visually impaired pedestrians.

Committee Position: Support.

Emergency Preparedness

[House Bill 1531 House Draft 2](#) – Relating to Emergency Announcements. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide an American Sign Language interpreter during each official announcement broadcast via television or the Internet during a state of emergency. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the American Sign Language interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible during the broadcast. Requires a news media outlet to display the American Sign Language interpreter in a picture-in-picture window during broadcasts of official emergency

announcements. Does not require broadcasters that rebroadcast the official announcement to independently generate or insert this accessibility feature? Effective 7/1/3000.

Justification: Increases effective communication for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Committee Position: Support.

Note: Also see [Senate Bill 2109 Senate Draft 2](#)

[House Bill 2443 House Draft 1](#) – Relating to Disaster Services. Integrates the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Establishes a Disability Integration Specialist position, to be located in the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, who shall provide programming support for disability community projects that promote accessibility, inclusion, and equity in disaster management. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000

Justification: Will increase planning, response, and recovery programs and services for people with disabilities.

Committee Position: Support.

[Senate Bill 2109 Senate Draft 2](#) – Relating to Emergency Preparedness Communications. Requires the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to develop and implement a statewide public education and communications program to promote household emergency preparedness consistent with the Agency's fourteen-day essential supplies recommendation. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide an American Sign Language interpreter during each official announcement broadcast via television or the Internet during a state of emergency. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the American Sign Language interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands are visible during the broadcast. Requires the Governor or mayor of a county to provide a standardized pool feed that includes the American Sign Language interpreter in a picture-in-picture window not less than one quarter the size of the primary video and not blocked or covered by captions, graphics, or other on-screen tax. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Justification: Increases effective communication for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Committee Position: Support.

Community Based Services and Employment

[Senate Bill 3045 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to Health Insurance. Requires all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions. Applies to insurance policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after 12/31/2026.

Justification: Increases access to healthcare services.
Committee Position: Support.

Administration

[Senate Bill 2921 Senate Draft 1](#) – Relating to State Funds. Transfers to the general fund the excess balances of various non-general funds and programs.

Justification: Reduces DCAB special funds.
Committee Position: Oppose.

- VII. Discussion on proposed State screening programs and the Americans with Disabilities Act's 2008 Amendment's expanded regulatory definition of major bodily functions. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/chapter-I/part-36/subpart-A/section-36.105>
- VIII. Open Forum:
Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting.
- IX. Adjournment

HOW TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION:

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121 or dcab@doh.hawaii.gov. Requests made as early as possible will allow more time to fulfill your request if possible.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

MEETING MATERIALS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

The agenda and meeting materials for this meeting are available for inspection at DCAB's office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on DCAB's website at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/dcab-agendas-and-minutes/>.

If the remote connection (via Zoom) is lost, the meeting will be recessed for up to thirty (30) minutes to restore communication. If the connection is lost, we will attempt to restart the meeting again with the same link. If the Committee is unable to reconvene the meeting because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be reestablished within thirty (30) minutes, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

If you have trouble entering the meeting, please contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121.